

. MINUTES .

OF THE

Twenty-fifth Annual Session

OF THE

CEDAR BLUFF BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

«Shady Grove Church»

September 22, 23, 24, 1899.



OFFICERS OF ASSOCIATION.

J. S. WATT	Moderator
J. C. HIGH	Clerk



1900:

COOPER PRINT.

CENTER, ALA.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters from the churches.
2. Election of officers.
3. Reception of new churches.
4. Invite visiting ministers of our faith and order.
5. Call for correspondence.
6. Appointment of the following committees, to wit:
 1. On Divine Service.
 2. On Finance.
 3. On Missions.
 4. On Education.
 5. On Sabbath Schools.
 6. On Temperance.
 7. On State of Religion.
 8. On Religious Literature.
 9. On Deceased Ministers.
 10. On Delegates to Conventions.
 11. On Preaching appointments for next session.

MINUTES.

The Cedar Bluff Baptist Association met with Shady Grove Church at 11 o'clock, a. m., September 22d, 1899. Introductory sermon preached by Brother J. N. Webb; text, 3d, 4th and 5th verses of the second chapter of St. Mark.

Adjourned to meet at 1:30 o'clock, p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

At the appointed time the moderator opened the association by reading 90th division of Psalms, prayer by Brother W. W. Grogan. The churches were called and the messengers enrolled as follows:

Bethlehem—L. Copeland,

Cedar Bluff—I. A. Ellis, J. S. Watt, T. G. Wilder, J. M. Horton.

Demaris—A. B. Griffith, J. H. Sanford, D. A. Tucker, W. McLaughlin.

Farrill—Jessie Raynes, W. A. Ramsey.

Fair Heaven—V. A. Bell.

Mt. Bethel—J. N. Webb, H. T. Leath, J. H. Weaver, J. I. Washam, B. Wilder, W. C. Gilliland.

Mill Creek—W. H. Helms, O. A. Gardner, T. B. Miller, J. C. High.

Leesburg—Not represented.

Round Mountain—J. M. Chancellor.

Unity—J. W. Hurley, I. B. Parker.

Union—M. A. Cornelius, P. Wagnon, Thomas Wagnon, Wm. Hicks, G. N. Pool.

Pleasant Valley—G. W. Parker, Ed McCoy.

Yellow Creek—L. B. Blevins, Frank Davis.

Shady Grove—W. E. Sewell, J. W. Higgins, Wm. Whitworth.

Little River—R. S. Dean.

The Association proceeded with the election of officers which resulted in the election of Elder H. T. Leath, moderator, and J. C. High, clerk. Brother Leath, after some arguing that ministers ought to be free from such positions, declined to serve as moderator. The next ballot resulted in the election of Bro. J. S. Watt as moderator. The moderator gave an opportunity for the reception of new churches. Invited visiting brethren of our faith and order to seats with us. Called for correspondence, recognized H. W. Roberts and W. W. Grogan, from the Cherokee County Association and Bro. Sandlin in his official capacity representing the board and the social denominational papers. The moderator then appointed the following committees:

On Religious Literature, I. A. Ellis, G. W. Parker, D. A. Tucker.

On Divine Services, M. A. Cornelius, Wm. Hicks, Joe Thornton.

On Deceased Ministers, L. Copeland, J. M. Chancellor, J. W. Higgings.

State of Religion, O. A. Gardner, R. S. Dean, J. H. Weaver.

On Delegates to convention, W. E. Sewell, J. W. Henley.

Preaching appointments, T. B. Miller, A. B. Griffith; for next session, J. M. Chancellor.

Finance, J. H. Weaver, Will Whitnorth, J. M. Horton

On motion adjourned to meet at 8:30 tomorrow morning.

MORNING SESSION.

At 8:30 the moderator opened the association by reading 103d division of the Psalms.

Extended the invitation to correspondence, recognized Bro. E. J. Bobo from the Cherokee Association. On motion the report on missions was tabled till some future time.

On motion the report on Sabbath Schools was postponed till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. On motion the report on temperance was deferred till one o'clock this evening.

The report on education was then read and amended so as to include the Walnut Grove Baptist college, adopted.

On motion the report on missions was taken from the table and read. Adjourned to meet at 1:30.

EVENING SESSION.

At the appointed time the association continued the discussed of missions. The reported was then adopted.

Recognized Brethren Moon, Sneed, Lindsey, Horton and Abernathy from the Cherokee County Association. The report on Temperance was then read and adopted.

Report on delegates to the state convention read and adopted. Report on religious literature read and adopted. Adjourned to meet at 8:30 tomorrow morning.

MORNING SESSION.

At the hour appointed the association was opened by the moderator reading a chapter of Isaiah. Read and approved yesterday's minutes.

On motion the report on Sabbath schools was postponed till 10 o'clock.

Report on deceased ministers read and adopted; following the suggestion in the report, the association joined in prayer to God for the preservation of the lives of the ministers in our Association.

Report on finance read and adopted. Report on state of Religion read adopted. On motion, the regular order of business was suspended to select place and fix the time of holding the meeting of this body which will be held at Mill Creek church on Friday, before the fourth Lord's day in September, 1900. On motion the report on preaching appointments for next session was read and adopted. The association recognized Brother T. L. Nesbert from the Callhoun County Association.

Recognized Brother Joe L. Jones from the Etowah Association. On motion the places for holding the fifth Sunday meeting were selected as follows:

First to be held with Round Mountain church October 1899. Second to be held with Bethlehem church in December 1899. Third to be held with Unity church in April 1900. Fourth to be held with Farill church in July 1900.

The report on Sabbath School read and adopted. Adjourned to meet at 1:30 p. m. Missionary sermon preached by Brother J. W. Sandlin. Public collection \$12.46. On motion each church was to prepare its own program for the fifth Sunday meetings.

The moderator then appointed the executive committee as follows: H. T. Leath, W. F. Wilder, P. Wagon.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sabbath Schools, W. M. Hicks, G. G. Lawrence, J. L. Raynes. Missions, H. T. Leath, R. S. Dean, Frank Davis.

Temperance, J. N. Webb, J. W. Henley, J. C. High.

Education, M. A. Cornelias, J. L. Washam, W. E. Sewell.

Adjourned to meet with Mill Creek church on Friday before the fourth Lords day in September, 1900.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

EDUCATION.

In former days education was measured by a limited knowledge of reading, writing, English grammar and mathematics, but how great a change has taken place since our boyhood. The opportunities of the school boy of today, is so far in advance of our fathers, that we can scarcely draw a parallel. Then the most primitive methods would give unto the husbandman abundant harvests. Then the most limited knowledge of medicine was sufficient to entitle anyone to a diploma with full permission to practice in any County or State.

Then the evidence of the Minister of the Gospel was received as truth and the accuracy of Holy Writ was seldom questioned. But time in its onward course has changed all these things. No longer can the farmer rely upon the virgin soil to bring forth an abundance of the golden grain; but his success is greatly measured by his knowledge of Chemistry, Botany, Geology and other true revelations of nature. The Physician must go deep into the studies of Chemistry, Physiology, Psychology and the entire anatomy of the human system. The minister can no longer make assertion for proof, but must be qualified to combat error in every form. He must be educated to that high standard that will fit and qualify him to show unto the world that so far from the evidence of the Bible being questioned as the revealed word of God, that every age and every assault of the "Higher Criticism" proved that back of all assaults stand "God and Revelation" declaring that I am the resurrection and the life.

Education has proven the old testament to be not void and without significance but with the light revealed through the truths and history of the old and new taken together, that God has in every age raised up and qualified devout men who has not studied the Bible to destroy, but to prove that its truths are as far superior to Pagan philosophy as knowledge is to ignorance. The standard of Education is rapidly being raised in every calling and avocation in life. In our common schools and colleges

of every kind We are proud to state that the Howard College has by the sacrifice of devout and pious men, been freed from debt and if we as a peculiar people would wish to educate and teach our distinctive principles, we know of no place more meritorious and worthy of patronage than the Howard and Judson colleges of our own state

Respectfully submitted, J. S. WATT.

TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on temperance submit the following report:

As temperance is imperative in the word of God, which we, as Baptists claim as our only rule of faith and practice, ought to live up to the divine standard on this subject.

We regret, that it is said, that some of our church members are guilty of visiting saloons when in Rome and other places, and actually become intoxicated. Such members in our opinion, are great drawbacks to the influence of the churches where they belong. While their example is bound to be damaging to the cause of our divine law giver. We urge, therefore, as the duty of churches, strict discipline of members, thus guilty, as no drunkard can enter the kingdom of Heaven "Wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Prov. 20-1.

It seems from this, that many who claim, have not been made wise unto Salvation.

Respectfully submitted, V. A. BELL.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We think Sunday School work in this Association is not advancing as it should. We are too much in the habit of making favorable reports and then comfort ourselves with those reports and not looking the problem square in the face. We take too much for granted that the Sunday School will go all right without much attention. Our opinion is that the churches of this association is growing luke warm on this important work. It is true that most of our churches reported Sabbath Schools last year, but as a rule if you want to see a cold dead thing, just drop in on any other Sabbath, than the regular once a month meeting day.

We think that every church ought to insist on its meeting every Sabbath for worship. Why does a church have to have a preacher every time they meet for worship. Is it so, that worship cannot be made profitable without a preacher. We say it can, and often it can be made more profitable to a church if the whole membership would come out, read, talk and pray, for a good understanding of the Bible, using the helps easily obtained.

Some devoted person can be found in every church, that can lead in prayer and praise, and do some good work, this is the intention of the Sunday School, and I want us to throw away every notion we have about a Sunday School that is not proper for a Missionary Baptist church.

We recommend the Kind Word Literature, also the Philadelphia Literature but what ever literature you have be sure to take your Bible and try to study of what the Bible teaches to that extent that you can tell whether your literature is sound or not, this doctrine of a great big invisible universal nothing has already been cropping out in our Baptist Literature, and in one or two instances a strong coloring of Campbellism, but if we will study our Bible we can with it thoroughly purge the floor.

Respectfully submitted, H. T. LEATH.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

This is a subject of great importance. Our correctness in life will depend largely on what we read and how we read it. The first and most important thing to be read is the Bible. It is a safe guard against all skepticism and infidelity. The Bible is the book for parents to teach their children when they lay down and when they rise up and when they walk by the way. Search the scriptures, said our Great head. We recommend our Sunday Schools lesson helps. As to religious papers Alabama Baptist first, Foreign, State and Home Mission Journal, Baptist Helper and Texas Baptist Standard.

Respectfully submitted, I. A. ELLIS.

STATE OF RELIGION.

The state of religion is very clearly exhibited in an individual or a church by the life that is lived or the work sought to be accomplished, hence we are to know the intentions by the efforts that may be made. In some of our churches, much labor and earnest efforts have been made for the salvation of the lost, and the upbuilding of the cause of Christ and the rich blessings of God have been manifested in sinners being saved and his children strengthened and built up.

Others, however, who have preferred to remain idle and indifferent honestly confess that the cause is not prospering in their hands, to these we would say "awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and Christ will give thee life."

Respectfully submitted,

O A. GARDNER, Chairman.

MISSIONS.

The field is the world; therefore our work embraces the whole world. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This command rests upon us today. The obligation is heavier and the reason greater than ever before. We are thankful for what has been done. We rejoice that the missionary spirit still lives in our midst. We must carry the gospel to the nations or we lose ground and even die. God has given us a great privilege as well as making it a duty to work for his cause. Are we doing what we can?

We need not be troubled any more about plans of operation. Here is the organized work through the bounds. Then here is the gospel mission plan, for all who wish to send men and money directly to the field. Under this plan, Bro. W. H. Smith and wife, are added to the forces in Mexico. So with all these advantages every one is left without an excuse. Are we Missionary Baptist? Are we doing what we can? If not, let us do better until every church and every member shall have done their best, and we have seen a great advance in the Master's work.

J. N. WEBB.

FINANCE

We your committee beg to submit the following report:

State Missions....	\$ 13.57
Home Missions	14 17
Foreign Missions.....	29.61
Vouchers.....	37.43
Orphan Home.....	.85
Subscriptions for Howard College.....	50.00
Minutes....	.95
Total	<u>\$146.58</u>

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. WEAVER, Chairman.

BRETHREN: It is with joy and gladness of heart that we, your committee are enabled to make the following report: While death has been abroad in the land it has pleased God in his goodness and mercy to spare the lives of the ministers, of our Association another year, for which let us sing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and engage in prayer and thanks to Him for his goodness and mercy.

Respectfully,

LEANDER COPELAND,

J. W. HIGGINS.

MONROE CHANCELOE

DELEGATES.

We your committee on delegates to the State Convention recommend the following Brethren: J. N. Webb, H. T. Leath, O. A. Gardner, M. A. Cornelius, V. A. Bell, J. A. C. Simms, J. S. Watt, J. W. Hicks, Will Whitworth and I. A. Ellis.

Respectfully submitted,

W. E. SEWELL, Chairman.

PREACHING.

We your committee on preaching appointed for next session beg to

report: M. A. Cornelius introductory sermon, Bro. Bell, alternate Bro. H. T. Leath, Missionary sermon, G. A. Crins, alternate.

Respectfully submitted, T. B. MILLER, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved. That this Association recommend that the churches in its bounds take monthly collections for missions. (Adopted in 1888.)

Resolved. That the delegates and messengers tender to this church and community our thanks for their kindness and hospitality to us during our stay in their midst.

TREASURER.

J. C. High in account with Cedar Bluff Association.

RECEIVED;	
Home Missions	\$ 14.17
State Missions	13.57
Foreign Missions	29.61
Public Collection	12.46
Minutes (1888)	13.00
Vouchers	41.43
Howard College	50.00
Total.....	\$174.24

DISBURSED:	
Home Missions	\$ 14.17
State Missions	13.57
Foreign Missions	29.61
Public Collectin	12.46
Minutes	13.00
Vouchers	41.43
Howard College	50.00
Total.....	\$174.24

Financial Exhibit Cedar Bluff Baptist Association, 1899.

CHURCH.	MISSIONS				Orphan Home	Minutes	College Subscription
	State		Home	Foreign			
	Cash	Vouchers			60		
Bethlehem	1 00		50	50			
Cedar Bluff...	3 63	11 65	3 63	3 64		95	50 00
Demaris		2 47	1 00	8 36			
Fair Heaven		4 00					
Farrill...		3 00		3 00			
Leesburg							
Little River...	2 00		1 50	1 50			
Mill Creek...	1 35	4 40	1 35	1 57			
Mount Bethel	4 00		2 00	1 31			
Pleasant Valley				1 50			
Round Mountain...		1 30					
Shady Grove...	1 28	9 98	1 28	1 29			
Unity...				4 52			
Union...		4 63	2 60	2 60			
Yellow Creek	31		31	32	25		
	\$13 57	\$41 43	\$14 17	\$29 61	85	95	\$50 00

Total.....\$ 150.58
Public Collection..... 12.46

Grand Total.....\$ 163.04

DECLARATION OF FAITH AND PRACTICE.

Article 1. We believe that there are three that bear record in Heaven. The Father, Word and Holy Ghost; and that these three are one, the only living and true. God the creator and preserver of all men of the universe.

Article 2. We believe the Word was made flesh in the person of the man Christ Jesus, who is God over all, and blessed evermore.

Article 3. That all scriptures as contained in the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Article 4. That the law and testimony as set forth in the scriptures is the only rule of faith and practice to Christians in their spiritual concerns, and in their conduct as individuals and as members of the churches.

Article 5. That Adam, the natural head and representative of all mankind, fell from his state of original purity, and that by his disobedience all his posterity are made sinners.

Article 6. That by the obedience of Christ alone sinners are restored to the favor of God, and through his merited mercy receive regeneration, pardon, justification, sanctification and glorification.

Article 7. That those blessings are communicated by that Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven. So that those who are saved are saved by grace, through faith and that not of themselves, not of works, lest any man should boast, not by words of righteousness which they have done, but by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Article 8. That God works all things after the council of His own will; foreknown unto Him are all his works from the beginning, and that of course, all that the Father hath given to Christ shall come to Him and that He will raise them up at the last day, so that His sleep will hear His voice. Shall never perish, become dead to the world and to sin, be made alive to God and when He who is their life shall come, appear with Him in glory.

Article 9. We believe that believers should obey the commandments of Christ, and maintain good works for necessary uses.

Article 10. That sinners of the vilest character may obtain salvation through Christ without money and without price.

Article 11. That there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgement, according to the decision of which, the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous to life eternal.

Article 12. That God has instituted a church on earth existing in distinct bodies, the only scriptural members of which are the faithful in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, who are immersed in water in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and who have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in the church relation by the will of God their voluntary consent.

Article 13. That each church of Jesus Christ is independent of all authority but that of her head, and she has under Him the exclusive power of managing all her concerns, of judging of the qualifications of her own members for the office they are to fill, and of choosing her own officers in conformity with the direction of the word of God.

Article 14. That the officers of the churches are pastors and deacons only.

Article 15. That scriptural baptism is an ordinance of the Gospel and consist in immersing the body of a disciple of the Lord Jesus in water upon a profession of his faith in Christ.

Article 16. That the Lord's Supper is a standing ordinance in the church of Christ, consisting in a believing participation of bread and wine, to be observed in commemoration of the suffering and death of Christ, and to show forth His death until He comes the second time.



